

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Gary Hayzlett, Chairperson
House Committee on Transportation
Statehouse, Room 274-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Hayzlett:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2616 by House Committee on Local Government

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2616 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2616 would provide counties an additional exemption from the advertising and bidding requirements for the immediate reconstruction or repair of a bridge when the board of county commissioners finds that an emergency condition exists for public health and safety. Under current law, this exemption is available only for damaged bridges that reside in a disaster area declared by the Governor.

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) states that the county commissioners would be required to obtain an estimate of the work to repair or reconstruct the bridge from the county engineer. If there is no county engineer, this estimate would be provided by KDOT. Currently, fewer than 25 of the 105 counties in Kansas have county engineers. KDOT estimates passage of HB 2616 could potentially increase the number of times KDOT is called upon to develop an estimate; however, the agency is not aware of a time in recent years that a county has made such a request. KDOT states any fiscal effect resulting from the passage of HB 2616 would be negligible on agency operations and further indicates any fiscal effect to counties would be negligible and could be absorbed within existing resources.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Ben Cleeves, KDOT
Melissa Wangemann, KAC